Commercial Banks including PSBs have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India, *inter-alia*, the following:—

(i) To set up a Special Cell to be headed by a Deputy General Manager/Assistant General Manager or any other similar rank who should function as a 'Nodal Officer';

(ii) The Lead Bank in each of the Minority Concentration Districts should have an officer to inclusively look after the problems regarding the credit flow to minority communities;

(iii) The convener banks of the District Consultative Committees (DCCs) and the State Level Bankers Committees (SLBCs) should ensure that steps are taken to facilitate the flow of credit to the minority communities and the progress made in this regard is reviewed regularly at their meetings;

(iv) The Lead Banks functioning in the identified districts should organize Entrepreneur Development Programmes so that the members of the minority communities in these areas are enabled to derive the benefit of various programmes being financed by the banks.

In addition to above the Government has advised the PSBs, *inter-alia*, the following:—

- To step up their lending to Minority Communities to 15% of their Priority Sector Lending by the end of 2009-2010;
- To open branches in identified Minority Concentration Districts/areas.
- To organize awareness campaigns in Districts/Towns/Blocks having substantial minority population and to organize publicity campaign of their loan products through print and electronic media and religious festivals;
- To monitor disposal of loan applications from Minority Communities.

(c) As per data available from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the total loans outstanding to Minority Communities as at the end of March 2006, 2007 and 2008 (latest available) for all scheduled commercial banks is as under:—

As at the end of March	Total amount of loan outstanding to Minority Communities (Rs. in crore)
2006	45491
2007	53541
2008	72481

Decline in forex reserves

3417. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the forex reserves have been declining for the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to ensure it does not decline below optimal levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The position of foreign exchange reserves during last six months (January, 2009 to June, 2009) is indicated below:—

Sl. No.	End of Month	Foreign exchange reserves (US$ billion)
1.	January, 2009	248.61
2.	February, 2009	249.28
3.	March, 2009	251.74
4.	April, 2009	251.70
5.	May, 2009	262.31
6.	June, 2009	265.14

There has been no decline in the level of foreign exchange reserves in the last six months. The level of foreign exchange reserves is largely the outcome of the Reserve Bank of India's intervention in the foreign exchange market to smoothen exchange rate volatility and valuation changes due to *inter se* movement of US dollar against other international currencies.

International funding for infrastructure projects

3418. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with mobilization of private capital becoming tough, India is looking for funding from international financial institutions for bridging gap in key infrastructure projects;

(b) whether change in international financial environment does present problems in mobilizing some of the private investments which India had hoped would flow in these sectors;

(c) whether the Prime Minister has issued any instructions in this regard;

(d) whether funding gap for infrastructure development is estimated to be $190 billion according to the Prime Minister; and

(e) if so, to what extent Government has been able to get funds from global institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) In his statement at the Summit of Heads of State or Governments of the G-20